

BC

DIRECTIONS
FOR
TAKING ALIVE OR DESTROYING
RATS and MICE,
EITHER IN
Houses, Ships, Mills, Farms, &c.
BY A
METHOD
HITHERTO UNATTEMPTED,
By JOHN MIDDLETON,
LATE OF *R.*,
WALTHAMSTOW.

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DIRECTIONS

202

THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

BY JAMES SAYER





most curious variety of ani-

P R E F A C E.

When we take a

W H E N we take a
view of the variety

of animals, from the largest
and most terrible in ap-
pearance, down to the small
and diminutive class, it will

be found, that mankind suffer greater injuries from the cunning and secundity of the contemptable ones, than from the invasions and attacks of the ferocious.

The LION, the ELEPHANT, and the RHINOCEROS are compelled to keep within their solitary and native retreats,

P R E F A C E.

retreats, far from the habitations of men ; but the RAT is a subtil and constant enemy,—not easily kept (though frequently driven) from our habitations.

To assist those persons who are particularly annoyed with those trouble-virmin,

virmin, has been the em-
ployment of the Author
for a series of years, and
with uncommon success ;
but has declined the prac-
tice. *il meoit (asvib*

He has, therefore, at the
solicitations of several of
his employers and friends,
been induced to print for
their

P R E F A C E.

their information, the arts
and methods he has so long
practiced: hoping the rude-
ness of his style will be ex-
cused, having attempted a
mere narrative of facts; and
if understood by his readers,
he has only to request they
will attend to his directions,
and he doubts not, but
they will free themselves
of many enemies.

E R R A T A.

Page 70, Line 14, instead of "and eight
thick," read, "an eighth of an inch
~~long~~ thick."



DIRECTIONS
FOR
TAKING ALIVE OR DESTROYING
RATS, &c.

OF THE BLACK RAT.

THIS animal is the old English House Rat, and for many ages, was the only one known in this country. The length from the nose to the tail is about seven inches long, and the tail is generally an inch longer; the nose, which is sharp pointed, is furnished

B with

with long whiskers ; the colour of the head, and the whole upper part of the body, is a deep iron grey, bordering upon black ; the throat and belly are of a dirty white, inclining to grey ; the legs and feet are but thinly covered with hairs, and of a dirty flesh colour ; the tail is coated with dusky scales, having but few hairs among them ; the fore feet want the interior toe or thumb, but are furnished with a claw in its place ; the hind feet are furnished with five claws ; and the Rats of this species differ in many particulars from the Norway Rat, as they do not burrow or lie in the drains,

drains, but are chiefly found in ceilings, behind wainscots of houses, and under the ridge tiles, rafters, and along the wall-plates of most buildings. Their numbers are greatly diminished from what they formerly were; and they are seldom met with in any country town or village; for the Norway Rats being stronger, kill them wherever they meet with them; as a proof of this, I have always found the Black Rats killed, and the Norway Rats unhurt, whenever I have put them into a cage together; still, however, there remains a great number of them in the city of London; and in some

large towns, there are no others in many houses. This species are taken with rather more ease than the Norway Rat, as they are not near so shy and crafty. Their runs and haunts are easily discovered, for wherever they go in and out at, you will perceive the place quite black, as also the tracks which they make in running along the shelves, &c.

THE NORWAY RAT.

IT is not only in the size and colour that this Rat differs from the common or English Rat, being larger

larger and of a light brown colour,
but in strength and craftiness.

This species, called by many the Hanover Rat, was notwithstanding this appellation, originally brought to England from Norway, in ships trading from that country; and there are but few buildings in this kingdom, which have not at one time or other, some of these troublesome and destructive vermin, particularly such as are situated near rivers, where ships and barges come to be unladen; as at that time the Rats, if there are any, will leave the vessels, make to the shore,

shore, and disperse themselves in the country* or to the first place of refuge, where in a short time they begin to multiply and become very numerous ; as one *Doe Rat* will breed about three times in a summer, and seldom brings forth less than ten or twelve young ones at a litter ; I have taken *fifteen* young ones from a doe Rat, and have found several with the same number ;

* This animal was a stranger to America, until introduced by the Europeans ; and into South America by the Spaniards.

ber; I have heard of * *eighteen* young ones taken from one doe Rat, but never saw a greater number than what I have already mentioned.

I have frequently taken *thirteen* young ones from a doe, and will take upon me to say, that, one with another, twenty doe Rats will bring two

* Mr. Buffon and Dr. Goldsmith, say, these animals frequently bring forth from fifteen to thirty at a time;—and Mr. Pennant says, they produce from fourteen to eighteen young at a time.

two hundred young ones at one litter each ; and further, to add to this great increase, those Rats which are kindled in the latter end of the month of February, or the beginning of March, (as this is about the time the old doe rats begin to breed) the young of this season will breed about the month of September or October following, and bring eight or nine at a litter, but seldom more at the first time ; (which accounts for the reason, why some parts of the country are so overrun at a certain time of the year) Rats will in the summer season lie out in the fields, from about the beginning

beginning of July, till the latter end of September or the beginning of October, and in a fine season, so long as any corn remains out, or when there is a great quantity of fruit; but when provisions fall short, and cold and wet nights come on, they flock to the buildings, or as I may say, when corn is taken into the barns, they follow it home; and frequently burrow in the stacks, where they consume much, but destroy more. Nothing, in short, that can be eaten, escapes the voracity of this creature, as rabbits, poultry, and all kinds of game; and hardly any of the feebler ani-

C mals

mals can escape its rapacity, except the mouse, which finds a shelter in its little burrow, that cannot receive an animal so large as the Norway Rat; though where the mouse has no secure burrow it falls a sacrifice, for where many Rats are found there are but few mice. But in large towns they remain all the year round; and in some houses also, unless they are disturbed, in which case they seek a new abode, not more than one or two pair remaining behind: this I have in many instances found to be the case.

It frequently happens, that Rats

will

will come to a house or building in pairs ; and I have known only *one* pair of Rats so stock a building, as to do considerable damage ; for example, I have caught one old doe and one buck, and ten or twelve nearly full grown young ones, and a litter of young ones about a quarter grown ; these being suffered to escape, have multiplied to such a degree, as almost to destroy the building. This shews the necessity of taking proper measures for destroying them in their first appearance ; for though many people take no notice of *one* or *two* Rats, yet when it is considered how

fast they multiply, not a moment's time should be lost in providing for their extirpation.*

Having thus, as far as necessary, given a general description of these animals,

* Rats were formerly so great a nuisance in large buildings, that the King of England had a Rat-catcher belonging to his household, which is continued in office to this day by his Britannic Majesty, distinguished in a peculiar manner by his dress, which is scarlet embroidered with yellow worsted, decorated with the figures of them destroying wheat sheaves. See WARD's *Natural History*.

animals, our next business is, to point out the method of taking them alive; and also of destroying them by poison.

As the first step to either method, you must carefully observe what part of the building they mostly frequent; if you find them in the *house*, examine your cellars; and see whether there be any drain which they can ascend through; if on the ground floor, look in the closets, in the recesses under the stairs, and such like private places, or they may be in the ceilings, and behind the wainscots, and underneath the ground

ground floor, where they will bur-
row, and by gnawing, greatly da-
mage the joists and flooring, filling
up the drains, &c. &c.

Now if the Rats harbour in the
house, I would advise you to take
them alive: for if they are poisoned
they are often very offensive: chuse
therefore some private place, where
they mostly frequent, and there
place a hutch trap, (made agreeably
to the instructions hereafter given)
setting the back part of the trap
close to the wall, so that the Rats
cannot run behind it, and about
eighteen inches from their hole or

run

run, where they come in at ; then tie or confine the falls of the trap, so that it cannot go down, and leaving them about half up, or rather higher, so that the Rats may pass under the flap with ease ; then take two small bundles of clean straw, tie them up tight, and place one at each end of the trap, as this prevents their having any notion that it is a trap ; let the bundles of straw be about two feet long, and as big as a small wheat sheaf, setting them aslant against the wall, and before the mouth of the traps.

If

If the Rats come in at more than one part of the building, you must have two or three traps ; but never set two traps in the same quarter, for by so doing, you will prevent their coming to either, as they otherwise might do. But when the traps are fixed in the places where you perceive the Rats most numerous, they must stand in the same manner undisturbed, until all are caught, except you should find they do not come to one of them, after you have fed some other trap, as this will frequently be the case, but I NEVER MOVE A TRAP AFTER THE RATS HAVE ONCE TAKEN TO IT,

for

for that makes them so shy, they will seldom come again, and after a great deal of trouble, makes labour in vain. One more caution is to be always kept in mind, this is to keep DOGS and CATS from the traps, or any thing else that will disturb them at their time of feeding, but let them have their free course, if the place where the traps stand will admit of it; but in such places as pantries, daries, or the like, where you are often going in, if you take but little notice of them, they will come again the minute after you are gone, provided they have been fed for some nights; for

D. though

though the Rats are so fond of the food, which I shall hereafter direct to be placed for them, they are very cautious for the first two or three nights, and more so if the traps are all new; but when the traps have been in use for several days, and have contracted a smell from the dung of the Rats, these animals will come much more freely to them; hence appears the impropriety of *washing* the traps, as is frequently practised by some people, in order to take off the scent: *a trap ought never to be washed.*

Having placed the traps as be-

fore

fore

fore directed, take some of the food and strew it from the place where the Rats come out of, to enter into the trap, covering all the bottom of the trap, and leaving a small quantity of it at the other end. Look the next morning to see what they have eaten, and if they have fed pretty freely, give some more food, but shorten the train from the place they come out of to the trap, to make them come nearer the trap; for though they are very fond of the food proposed to feed them with, yet if the traps be new, and the Rats not very numerous, it may be two or three nights before they will

enter boldly, and they must be humoured ; now some patience is undoubtedly necessary to overcome the sagacity and cunning of these animals, and you should never attempt to catch, until you have fed them eight or nine nights, in which time they will become quite familiar with the trap, and no longer afraid of it ; for if you attempt to take them sooner, you may not catch the half of them, and a certain consequence is, that you make the rest so shy, that they will give you a great deal of trouble. But when fed eight or nine nights or longer, and are become very bold, you may expect

expect to have a great many, if they are not interrupted by other vermin, or meet with some disturbance. I have been frequently disappointed by accidents of this kind, and when I have expected a great number of prisoners, have caught but two or three; and once in particular, at Captain Court's at Woodford, where I could catch but two Rats by 12 o'clock at night, owing to some disturbance, for on the fourth night after, I took eighty-one Rats; let none therefore think themselves disappointed, if the first trial fails, for if ever the Rats have fed at the traps, they will

will be sure to come again, though they may meet with something in their way that may prevent them on the night of catching.

Those traps that the Rats feed at in the day, should be set in the morning, for I have taken a great many in a quiet still place in the day-time; but the traps intended to catch with in the night should be carefully set in the evening; observe that all the strings which tie up the falls are sound, and every thing in order, that you may not have any thing to disturb them at the first of their coming, for that

ma-

may spoil your evening's sport at the time you intend to catch them. In the winter season the traps should be set before dusk, and not looked at too often, so as to disturb them ; but you may now and then go quietly and listen, and if you hear them gnaw and scratch, then you may be sure the trap is down, but the best way is to sit within hearing of the sound of the traps ; and when you go to take out the Rats, let not above one person go with you, for the noise of many people will make them shy.

When you take out the Rats from

from the trap, take the small wire cage hereafter directed, in your right hand, keep it close to the ground, and quite close to the trap, for the Rats may bolt so strong against the cage as to drive it away ; then lift up the door of the trap so high as the fall of the cage; to let them in, rattle against the trap by kicking gently at the further end of it, to make them come out, for when they find themselves taken, they are very cautious in moving, and unwilling to leave the trap ; but when one or more have bolted into the cage, shut down the door of the trap before you take the cage

away,

away, and then tilt up the trap and examine it, by drawing up the shutter a little way, so that you can see down the trap, for sometimes they will sit very still.

I have often had five or six in a trap : once at Mr. Charles Hitch's, at Plashet, I had sixteen in two traps, viz. nine in one, and seven in the other, and both struck at the same time ; and in the same evening I took upwards of fifty.

At Mr. George Hodgson's, at Bow, I had twelve at once in a

E trap

trap, and this may happen often, where the Rats are numerous.

When you have got any Rats in your cage, keep them out of the hearing of their companions, and do not tease them to make them cry out, but either drown them, or put them into a store cage in some private place until morning, if you intend to hunt them, but be sure to keep them out of the hearing of their companions. You may put your hand into the cage, and take the Rats out one at a time, and turn them to your dogs, as they will not make the least attempt to bite

bite you when they have been kept in the cage all night, which greatly terrifies them, and more so, when they see their enemies the dogs, and people about them, in the day-light, which they will always endeavour to hide themselves from. Never dress your hands with any medicine as that is of no use, but when you take them out, take them by the tail, and turn them to the dogs, &c. and when you set your traps after taking out the Rats, put a little fresh food on the trigger-board, and do the same every time, laying a very small train all along the bottom; do not leave

much in the bottom, nor look too often at the traps ; unless the Rats are very plenty, and if so, you will always find that the principal part of the business will be done in the first two or three hours of the evening : in which space of time I have frequently taken three or four score. Now when you have sat up as long as you have thought proper, or you find the Rats not to come in such plenty, prop up the traps again, and feed them for three or four nights longer ; (but if the Rats should lay in the upper part of the house, and not come until the family is gone to rest, you must set up

up a little longer, but this is very seldom the case;) and then set them as before; never leave the trap set till you find the Rats very thin, then you may leave the traps set to take the odd ones, but the traps should have some strips of tin nailed round the edge of the doors, and every place where light appears, for where they see the least light they will be sure to gnaw and let themselves out, which gives some trouble, as they will be for sometime exceedingly shy, and the more so if a *Doe Rat*; for though they may come and feed at the trap every night, they will not venture so

so far as the trigger-board. I have seen a Rat so shy that it would come and eat on both sides of the trigger-board, and not venture on it for a long time, but this is very seldom the case.

If these directions are strictly followed, tis impossible for any one to miss taking the Rats alive, either in barns, houses, mills, or ships.

From my directions were taken this summer, one hundred and seventy, on board a ship in the river, in one evening! and in the neighbourhood of Waltham-stow,

ftow, Woodford, Layton, Stratford, &c. I have many times taken from fifty to a hundred in one evening, and am ready to perform this business with any practitioner in the kingdom.

If you would poison the Rats, and not have the trouble of taking them alive, which may be done, both easily and safely, either in stable, cow-house, barn, poultry-house, &c. and also in the necessary, which they are almost sure to frequent; take a light and look down the seat hole, and you will know if they come there by seeing their dung

dung on the wall-plates, &c. and there lay some of the paste. If in the stable where you see their runs, there put your paste also, as near as possible, and the same in every office. Lay your paste in the afternoon or evening, before dark, and always lay it in a dry place, or on a dry thin board, quite near the runs, and also where they principally haunt; and give them a sufficient quantity, as they will very seldom look at poison a second time, and not at all if they have ever been tried with poison before. But if this has not been the case, you may expect to kill the greatest part
of

of them if not all, as I have several times cleared a whole building in one night; but some old Rats take a little, and not enough to kill them, which makes them very sick, and causes them to vomit it up again; such to whom this has happened, will never touch any sort of poison bait again, but then you may apply your hutch traps as before mentioned. When you put your poison down in the evening, look again in the morning and take what is left, and either bury or destroy it, and if you perceive them still about, you may try them with a second dressing.

F

But

But when they find ther companions lying dead in their runs and haunts, the remainder very often set off to some other part of the building, or quite leave the premises. You will always find those Rats most difficult to poison, that lie in barns, in the corn mows, as their stomachs are always so full that they will seldom touch any poisoned bait, though I have cleared barns when full of corn, a number of times, and those you may take with the hutch traps, if there is any office adjoining the barn, that you can feed and entice to,

to, and take them all, as no method exceeds the hutch trap.

You may lay three or four pieces of board on the top of each of the corn mows, in the barn, and on each board lay ten or twelve pieces of the paste, and give each a squeeze between your thumb and finger, to prevent their carrying it away after they have eaten of it ; take away what is left next day, least any of the poultry, &c. should frequent the places ; and let it always be a rule with every one, not to let poison lay above one or two nights at most ; for after Rats have once

refused it, there are few men in this kingdom able to deceive them a second time.

THE WATER RAT.

THEIR haunts are always close to the water-side, and their food is chiefly grass and other vegetables ; they do not eat flesh ; and some will say, they will not touch corn or pulse ; but I have known them do much damage in the gardens, as they will eat whole drills of green peas, when about an inch out of ground, they will also eat

eat the pink plants, carnations, &c. The chief mischief they do is, by making their burrows or holes in banks of ponds, ditches, &c. &c. they always have one hole in the earth above, another *below* the surface of the water, to escape from their enemies, which ever way they are pursued.

The best method that I know of taking them is : to get small steel traps, and set them in the earth near their holes even with the surface, in cavities exactly fitted to their shape and size ; and cover them lightly with grass, but not so much

much as will prevent your trap
from striking.

You may also try them with
some of the paste in their holes and
runs ; but take away in the morn-
ing what has not been eaten ; and
be careful to let no ducks be in the
ponds or ditch, for if they pick up
the paste it will kill them.

H O U S E M O U S E .

THIS Mouse most commonly
resorts to those places where
victuals are kept, and in corn
chambers, &c. Search the pantry,
and other places where any kind of
provisions are kept, for the holes
where the Mice comes out at; and
if you are apprehensive of danger
from the laying of *poison* in such
places, you may take them in the
following manner: take a bit of
cloth three or four inches wide,
and ten or twelve inches long, and
spread it well with bird-lime; then
nail

nail it down with four small nails, one at each corner, let it be placed before the mouths of the principal runs, and stop all other holes within your reach, and all you can find in the neighbourhood of the principal holes, and you will find that every Mouse that puts his foot theron will stick fast.

Do this in the evening in every convenient place, and in the morning look for the Mice.

This is a safe and sure method of taking those Mice ; and I have taken great numbers in this manner.

Or

Or, you may destroy them thus.
Take half a pint of the food, as directed for the Rats, (but mix no bread or liver with it) to which add two or three figs of nux vomica, grated or rasped quite fine, rub and mix them well together, and lay it on a bit of paper or on the bottom of a plate, and set it on the shelves where they run, and in every place they frequent; or you may take rusty bacon and fry it, and save the grease that comes from it, and when cold, mix a plenty of nux vomica, grated fine, and a little

G

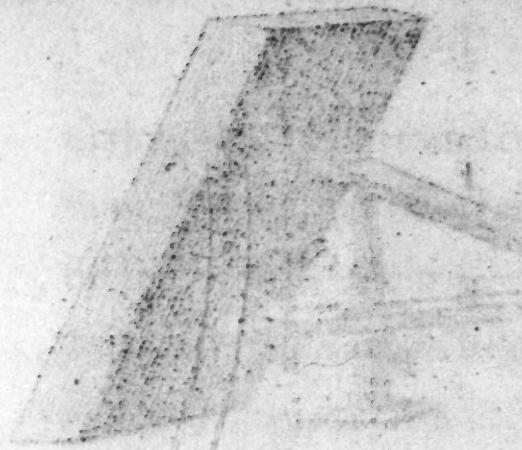
fine

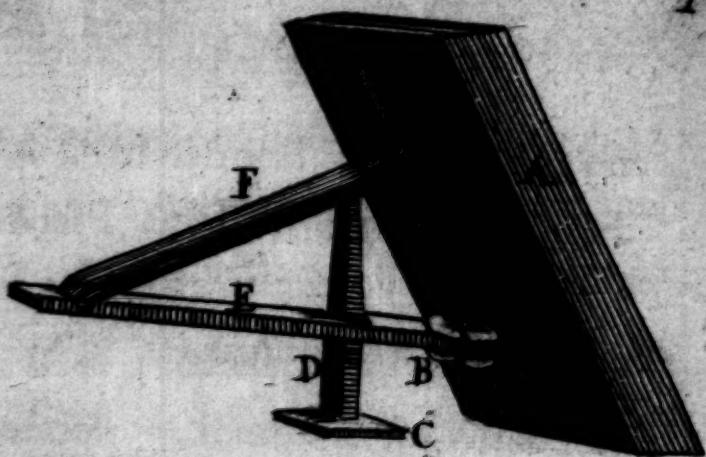
fine sifted oatmeal, and spread it on a board, and set it in their runs, &c.

It is needless to mix any composition with arsenic for Mice; as I never could find they would take it. The nux vomica is more effectual, and less dangerous in using.

THE FIELD MOUSE.

MICE of this species abound in gardens and fields, and but very seldom come to the houses. They frequently do great damage to





A View of Sampson's Post as set for Killing mice

Explanation.

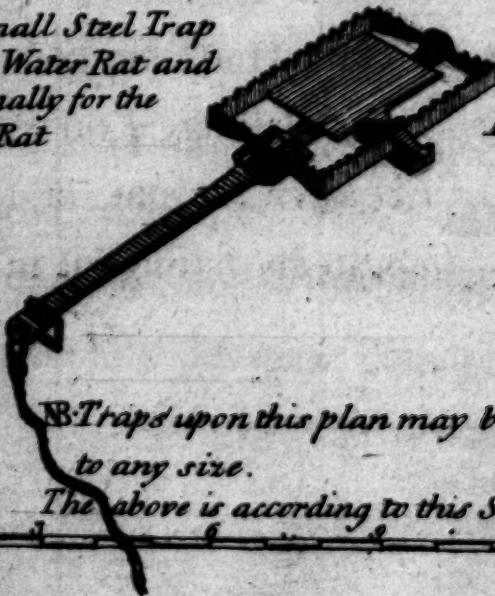
A a Brick or Square Stone

B a garden Bean split and tied to the end of the trigger rail E.

C a piece of tile placed under the post D to prevent its sinking into the ground.

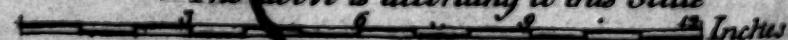
F is the bearing wedge that supports the brick

*The small Steel Trap
for the Water Rat and
occasionally for the
Norway Rat*



*Traps upon this plan may be made
to any size.*

The above is according to this Scale



to the drills of peas and beans when they first begin to vegetate; but do not touch them after they are two or three inches high.

Poison of any sort is of little or no use in destroying them, as they will seldom touch it.

The best trap I know of, is a brick and three bits of stick, which the gardeners call the *Sampson's post*; probably from the numbers destroyed by its falling, I once took twenty-six Mice in one of those traps, repeatedly setting it in one season.

The common snap trap is also useful to take those Mice, baited with a small bean, (after it has been soaked in water for two or three days) and placed by the side of the drills.

There are several other species of Mice, viz. the *black* Shrew Mouse ; the *red* Shrew Mouse ; the Dormouse ; and *grass* Mouse ; to which we may add the Bat ; but those are all harmless and inoffensive little animals.

OF THE FERRET.

AS Ferrets are frequently used for the destruction of Rats, it may be necessary to say something of them : though for my own part I have but little opinion of them, as they are of little use, unless in small out buildings ; for in large builings, where the Rats can fly before them any distance, or climb up any place, they generally make their escape, as the Ferret is slow at climbing, and only hunts by scent after their prey ; and as soon as they meet with it they kill it ; and

and then the sport is over ; or, if they find a brood of young ones they will eat them, and sometimes lay down in the nest to sleep till hunger obliges them to seek for more provisions ; which is a loss of time to watch for them, or dig them out, and much to the prejudice of the building, &c.

The Rats will often make a strong resistance, and remain masters of the field, and oblige the Ferret to retire much wounded, which often proves mortal from the venom of the Rat, if not speedily dressed. The best dressing is a little salt ; or salt,
vinegar

vinegar and water ; and as soon as the part is dry, clip off the hair round the place, and stick on a plaster of shoe-makers wax, spread on leather.

Ferrets differ much in size ; and also in colour : as some are of a light yellow cast, with red eyes ; others are of a dusky or blackish colour, with mealy eye-brows, &c. those are called the polecat sort.

The female is mostly the best to hunt with being smaller in size ; and if quite empty, or kept short of provisions

provisions the day before you hunt her, she will afford good sport.

In many places they are used for hunting of rabbits ; but then their mouths are sewed up, by putting a needle and a strong thread through the upper-lip of each side the mouth, and tie up the under jaw, to prevent their killing and eating the rabbits.

Those animals generally breed once in a season, about April or May, and bring forth young in six weeks, five or six at a time, and some times more ; the young are

fix

six weeks before they get their sight; then they soon get their teeth, and begin to feed upon flesh; as they will eat almost any sort. They are very fond of milk.

As soon as it is perceived that the doe goes to buck, she should have him within the first six days; for if it is omitted ten or twelve days, they seldom bring any young, though they have the buck; but will generally go again in seven or eight weeks time.

OF THE POLECAT.

THESE are of the same species as the Ferret : but of a dusky black colour, with mealy eye-brows and nose, and remarkable small round ears.

This is a fierce wild animal ; from twelve to fourteen inches long ; with a tail six inches long ; and legs about two inches, or two and a half ; they have five toes, or claws ; and a small ball to the foot like a cat, though not so large.

They

They are great enemies to Rats,
and frequently drive them from the
barns or corn-stacks.

They will likewise kill poultry
and game.

They do great damage in the
rabbit-warrens ; as they will easily
get into the burrows, and eat the
young ones, or kill the old ones ;
and lay concealed and feasting for
sometime.

I have taken great numbers of
those with the hutch trap, and also
with the iron spring trap.

H 2

They

They will frequently lay concealed in drains or in old dry banks under hollow trees ; if you can perceive any of those animals about, or can find where they enter, to come at the poultry or rabbits, set the hutch trap ; and also an iron spring trap, made strong. Having set all the traps,—Take a piece of fresh sheep's paunch, and draw it round the building, or the way you think they come, over each spring trap, and through the hutch trap, as a trail.

Perhaps they will not come the first night, for if they have killed any

any thing and carried it away, they will stay and feed on it as long as it lasts.

I have frequently put a stick in the ground a flant-ways, and placed a spring trap under it, drew a trail from the place they were known to frequent, and tied it to the stick, letting it hang directly over the trap, it has allured them thereto and taken them.

If the traps are set where rabbits are; stick some white feathers, or bits of white rags, by the traps, and the rabbits will not come near.

OF

OF THE MARTAIN CAT.

THIS is larger than the Pole-cat, but resembles it in colour and shape; it is seldom found but in woods, and there takes up its abode in hollow-trees, and sometimes in a magpies or in a crows-nest.

They, also, prey on rabbits, game, birds, poultry, &c. &c. and are very fierce animals.

I have known them to be hunted with hounds; which they will lead through

through the thickest part of the cover, and often make their escape.

They may be taken in traps, in the same manner as directed for the Polecat.

I have seen one of those Cats, that was caught in a hutch trap, and kept in a wire cage, till it become so tame as to be handled with safety.

The Martain Cat is often taken in the hutch trap, set within the parks and paddocks ; by placing them set at small cavities in the pailing,

pailings, made for the purpose of taking vermin in general.

When the iron spring trap is set, it should be placed even with the surface of the ground, and covered lightly over with grass, moss, or any thing that will not prevent the trap from striking.

OF THE STOAT.

THIS is of the same species as the former ones, but much smaller in size, and differs in colour; being of a sandy red, with a white throat and belly; having a brush tail about five inches long.

I have seen numbers of Stoats milk white, with a black tail; those are very active and nimble little animals, and seldom rest long in a place; these are the worst of all this tribe; frequently destroying whole broods of chickens in a short time;

I

likewise

likewise hares, rabbits, and game
of all sorts.

If you set the hutch trap, and
use the same method as directed for
the Polecat, and bait it with a bit
of the trail before-mentioned, or
with a dead chicken, they may be
often taken.

THE WEAZEL.

THIS is of the same colour as the red Stoat, having a white throat, with a short tail. They will destroy Rats, Mice, and small vermin, in barns and corn-stacks ; they are great enemies to the young ducks or chickens ; and will suck eggs of all sorts ; sometimes they leave their shells behind, but mostly carry them off to their haunts, which are frequently under some wood-pike or faggot-stacks ; they commonly make a small hole at

one end of the egg and suck out
the contents.

If you miss your eggs or young
poultry, you may suspect you have
some of those gentry; but they
seldom continue long in a place.

They are great destroyers of
game of all sorts. They will leap
on a hare as she is sitting, and
fasten on the side of her neck and
suck her to death.

Use the spring and hutch traps
as before directed.

THE HUTCH TRAP.

THE Hutch Trap I have always found the best : which is that with sliding doors, and made of deal or elm of an inch thick, such as is well seasoned, and will not warp ; the length should be two feet two inches, and eight inches wide in the clear ; the side-boards, A. nine inches high ; cut a slit in one of them, at B. B. two inches and a half high, and a quarter of an inch wide ; half an inch above the slit, nail on a piece of wood, C. about two inches long and a quarter of an inch

inch thick, for one of the buttons,
d. to rest against when the trap is
set ; let the trigger board, e. on the
inside be five inches wide, and a
quarter of an inch thick ; put a
wire, f. in it to come through the
sides of the trap, at B. B. this wire
should come through about an inch
and a half, having the point bent
up half an inch, to receive the lower
end of the button, d. ; under the
other end of the trigger board
should be a piece of wood, one inch
and a half square, and eight thick,
with a 10d. nail without a head, or
a piece of wire drove through it,
into the bottom of the trap, directly
opposite

opposite the trigger hole, B. B. to
 keep the trigger board hollow; let the
 shutters or doors at each end be ten
 inches high, and nail a bit of wood
 both inside and outside, making a
 grove for the doors to play in,
 which will keep them steady; let the
 doors come as near the ends of the trap
 as possible, that when you take the
 rats out, they cannot force themselves
 between the wire cage and the trap;
 the standards, f. f. Should be seven
 inches high, and with a grove in
 the top of each standard an inch and
 half deep, for the bails to come
 through; the bails should be four-
 teen inches long, and one inch and
 a half

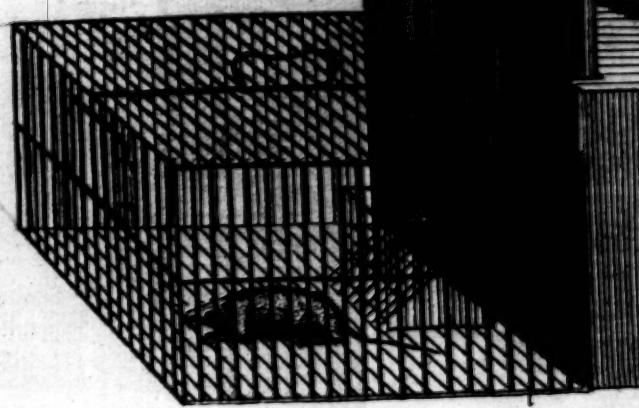
a half wide, and a quarter thick ;
a small wire staple should be drove
into the top of the shutter, at h.
and a hole made in the end of the
bails, I. I. to receive a string, J. J.
the staple will make the shutter
hang more upright, than if only
fastened by a hole in the top of it ;
the bails should be hung upon a
pivot, at k. k. and have plenty of
room to play up and down at ease ;
the standards should be placed on
two pieces of wood, nailed across
the trap, two inches wide, and one
inch thick ; and let the standards be
six inches from each end of the trap,
which will make them eight inches

clear

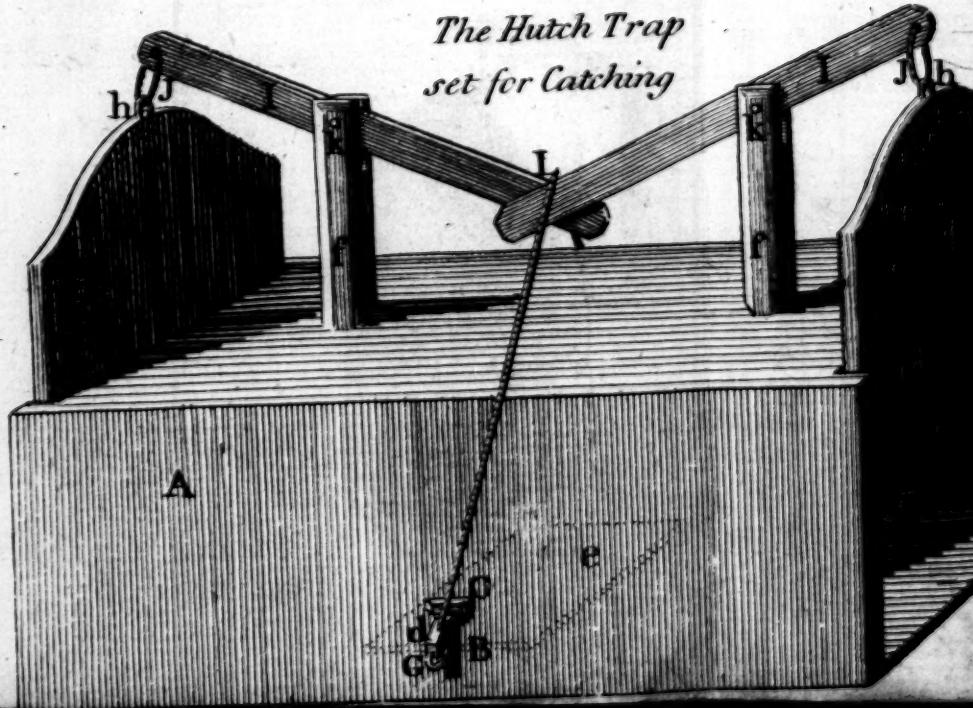


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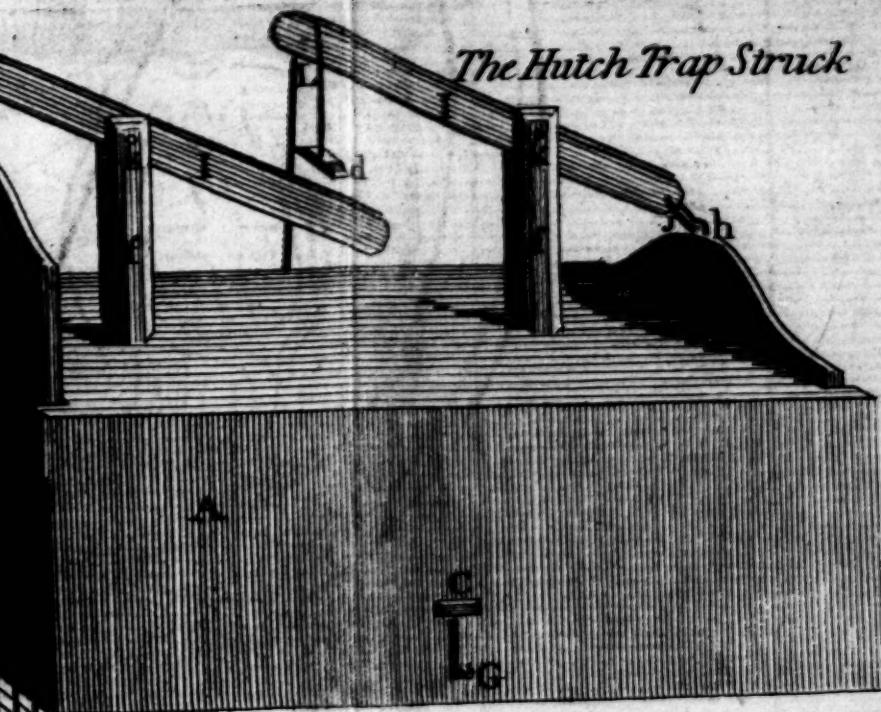
*A View of the
Wire Cage placed
to the Trap for
receiving the Rats.*



*The Hutch Trap
set for Catching*



The Hutch Trap Struck



*Plan of the Bottom
of the Hutch Trap*



Plan of
the
Trigger
Board

JG

rp®

clear of each other ; drive a nail in the back part of the trap, and tie one end of a piece of pack-thread thereto, and to the other end, fasten the button d. which is to pass over the bails, at L. and to be fixed to the wire in the trigger board, at B. as before-directed ; be careful to see that the trigger board touches no one part of the trap, as it should be quite clear. Line the inside of the trigger hole, B. with slips of tin, and all across the inside of the top, and down both sides where the shutters slide, to prevent the Rats from gnawing ; nail a quarter

of a pound of lead on each shutter,
to make the trap strike quick.

There are several other sorts of hutch traps; but I have always found this to be the best, as the Rats cannot easily let themselves out.

The small wire cage should be about ten inches square, and six inches high, with a fall at one end, and a door at the other, to let the Rats out into the store cage, if you choose to keep them for hunting.

The

The store cage should be twenty inches long, eight or nine inches high, and nine inches wide, with a fall at one end, to let the Rats in at, and a door at the top of the cage to put your hand in, to take them out; take them out one at a time, as before-directed.

Yours & How oft yea finu radiago
no 3; Sabored & equal on han
to dismisse hanc & illud in tunc
io eam adi modis accipit ac lassid
quod hanc cogitatio non esse off
enda in eam his mali & sollicit
abolitus a leprosa est. So appon
to hanc hanc & hanc New rivel
modi xim. Hanc prip begnido
low.

To MAKE THE FOOD.

TAKE a pint of wheat flour and a large table spoonful of treacle, put them into a bowl or dish, and drop in nine or ten drops of the mixed oils, then rub them together until they are well mixed, and no lumps to be found ; then put in half a pound of crumb of bread, in pieces about the size of the top of your finger, and some smaller ; then add two or three ounces of the nut of a bullocks liver well boiled, and grated or chopped quite small, mix them well

well together; for the Rats are fonder of the liver than they are of the chymical oils.

The night you intend to catch, put neither bread nor liver; for the Rats will take up the lumps and go from the trap to eat them; but do not forget to put a small train of the food along the bottom, and over the bridge, as before-directed.

The oils for the Food, should be half an ounce of oil of carraways, and forty drops of oil of rhodium, *well mixed.*

oils

To

TO MAKE THE PASTE FOR DESTROY-
ING RATS, &c.

TAKE a glazed dish and put therein half a pound of white arsenic, finely powdered; then take a quarter of a pound of loaf-sugar and half a gill of water, put those in a small saucepan and simmer them over the fire, 'till the sugar is all dissolved, and the water just boils up; then pour it to the arsenic in the dish, and stir it with a piece of stick, until the arsenic is all mixed with the sirup; this done, take some wheat-meal fresh ground, and mix the

the whole together ; then knead it into a stiff paste, and put it into a dry bladder, and tie it up for use ; being careful to keep it from the sun, winds or damps.

Be careful to *wash your hands clean* after you have mixed the paste, and to keep every part of the *apparatus*, as well as the *paste* in a secure place from *children, &c.*

If you cannot get fresh wheat-meal, make use of oat-meal and wheat flour ; having double the quantity of oat-meal, and it will in general answer the purpose. Or
sift

sift some fresh barley-meal through a sieve, and mix the finer parts of it with flour, the same as before-directed ; this, the Rats are very fond of.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER PASTE.

TAKE four ounces of wheat-meal, and one ounce of white arsenic, mix them together with half an ounce of loaf-sugar, and half a gill of water; dissolve the sugar, and mix all together into a Paste. This sort should be used as soon as made, as it will not keep good longer than four days.

**THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN
PREPARING THE PASTE MUST BE
CAREFUL TO WASH THEIR HANDS
AND UNDER THEIR NAILS QUITE
CLEAN.**

L DIREC-

DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE PASTE,
ON SHIP - BOARD

NO W I hope that every one, who is in possession of this book, may carefully observe the following directions, as the business should be done by one careful steady person on board :

In the first place examine the *bold*, as this is the part they chiefly resort to ; and the place where the principal part of the business should be done.

Break your paste in small pieces,
the

the size of a nut, and lay it in the manner of a train, the bits about three or four inches apart ; lay it in several places where you see they have been ; if you see any holes in the lining, drop three or four bits down each hole, which will run down between the timbers, where they generally lay and breed ; if the hold is properly baited, which will require sometime to do.

Always observe that your hands are clean from tar, for the Rats will not touch the bait if there is any such smell on it.

Be careful also, to wash your hands when you have done, lest any stick to your fingers.

When you have finished laying the paste in the hold, lay over the hatches, and don't suffer any body to go into the hold until next morning; and the quieter the ship is the better.

You may lay some on the breast-hooks, and also on the transoms;

If these directions are properly followed, there will be but few,

if

[85]

if any, Rats left alive in the ship.

The paste that is left must be taken away or thrown over-board, to prevent any accident.

T H E E N D.





